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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT **Arsenals in the Chungking Area**

25X1 DATE OF INFO. April 1952, except as noted

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. By April 1952, the 21, 23¹, and 50 Arsenals, which were built by the Nationalists, had been repaired, expanded, and were in full production. The only change in the names of these arsenals is the addition of the word "People's" in front of each number.
 - a. The 21 Arsenal is at Chiangpei (106-35, 29-36) on the north bank of the Chialing River. Most of the damage caused by the explosion of an ammunition dump by the Nationalists during their withdrawal has now been repaired. This arsenal has its own power plant. It has about 20,000 workers and several Soviet experts. Production includes 7.9 mm rifles² and light and heavy machine guns, all of which were produced before Communist occupation. The light machine guns are 7.9 mm caliber and of Czechoslovakian design.³ They are magazine loaded, each magazine containing 25 rounds. Before leaving the arsenal each machine gun is packed with eight magazines. The heavy machine guns are water-cooled and fed from belts, each of which contains 250 rounds. It is believed that other weapons are also being made there now.
 - b. The 23 Arsenal¹ is at Tz'uch'ik'ou (4318/0892/0656), a western suburb of Chungking. It is being expanded and about 20,000 workers are employed there. This arsenal has its own power plant and controls the large iron foundry which was formerly operated by the Nationalist Resources Commission. Since early 1951 the arsenal has been making rails and other components for the Chungking-Chengt'u Railway, and this is believed to be its sole production at present.
 - c. The 50 Arsenal is at T'angchiat'o (106-39, 29-38). It has its own power plant and employs about 10,000 workers. Since early 1951 this arsenal has been producing artillery shells, mortars, grenades, and aerial bombs, including fuses.

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d. A weapons repair shop, which was formerly the Mint at Chungking and which is on the south bank of the Yangtze River, is manufacturing large quantities of small arms ammunition.

2. No explosives are manufactured at the above arsenals or the Mint but at factories in Chungking. Most of the iron for the arsenals comes from the Lungwantung (7893/3769/3159) mine near Chungking, though some is shipped from Hankow. A skilled armorer receives only about JMP 200,000 each month plus two catties of rice daily, free quarters, and medical attention. They receive other living necessities at low prices. The local press frequently publishes accounts of awards to workers for their outstanding skill and devotion to duty.
3. The arsenal near Tungtau (106-19, 28-08)⁴, which was built by the Nationalists, has been greatly enlarged and work on it was completed in 1951. It has its own hydraulic power plant which also supplies power to nearby villages. The area is surrounded by barbed wire fences and patrolled by armed guards who strictly prohibit the entry of unauthorized personnel. There are about 20,000 workers, the majority of whom live inside the arsenal. A number of Soviets are employed there and are believed by the local inhabitants to be engaged in important research work. Little of the arsenal can be seen from the Chungking-Kweiyang Road as nearly all the buildings are underground and camouflaged with bushes and vegetation. Day and night shifts are in operation.

1. Comment. This is probably the 24 Arsenal which, according to available information, is at Tz'uch'ik'ou. The 23 Arsenal is at Luhsien (105-26, 28-52).

2. Comment. This is probably the Gimo 7.92 mm rifle.

3. Comment. This is probably the Czech B 26.

4. Comment. Information available here indicates that the Nationalists closed this arsenal after V-J day.

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